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NEWSLETTER

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ILLINOIS ACTIVE IN PLANNING

Of the 102 counties in Illinois, according to the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Illinois, 78 counties have initiated planning, 32 have established zoning, and 27 have some form of both planning and zoning. Eight multi-county planning regions involve 28 counties and 30 counties have resident planning staff services available. The nine metropolitan areas (SMSA's) in the planning areas all have staffed programs.

High priority in Illinois multi-county programs is given efforts to satisfy aspirations for community development within individual member counties while also directing major attention to regional, long-range planning programs.

Qualified planning staffs are reportedly hard to find, but they are being added to assist city-county joint programming as rapidly as possible.

Meanwhile, educational programs are meeting training needs for area planners:

The University of Illinois is holding an Institute of Planning Commissioners twice a year.

An annual Zoning Administration Institute and a Law and Planning Institute are held at the Illinois Union at Urbana.

An Extension short course entitled, "Survey of County Planning," is provided at the University of Illinois as well.

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville will be offering a Master of Science degree program in Urban and Regional Planning for the first time this fall.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH HELPS RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

The Agricultural Research Service is providing many of the answers to environmental protection in urban and suburban development. An ARS research effort, for instance, currently being tested on the Phoenix, Arizona, water supply, uses vegetable filters to reclaim sewage effluent. The goal is cheap, safe, re-use of water for both city and farm. Predictions are that the multiple re-use of water will become a necessity by 1980.

INTEREST HIGH IN RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

The Watts riot in Los Angeles marked the turning point in urban awareness of rural-urban migration, Dr. W. Clark Edwards and Calvin L. Beale, of USDA's Economic Research Service told those attending the 46th National Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington recently.

They reported:

"The heightened interest in rural-urban migration can be demonstrated by the record of requests for information on the subject handled by ERS's Population Studies Group. Between 1964 and 1968, requests for demographic information other than migration of rural people rose by 12 percent. Requests for migration data rose by 250 percent. Inquiries on this subject from non-governmental sources were almost nonexistent in the earlier period, but now comprise more than half of the migration service work."

Also quotable from the Conference:

C. B. Ratchford, vice president for Extension, University of Missouri:

"Small communities are necessarily tied to larger ones. It is the exception, however, where this is recognized and where positive effort is devoted to increasing the efficiency of interaction between institutions both within a community and in different communities. The more common situation is for institutions to fight each other. In particular, small communities tend to vigorously fight larger ones -- an action which chokes the larger community, brings slow death to the small community, and generally stifles the entire area."

WEST VIRGINIA STUDIES NEW TOWNS

The State of West Virginia, with the help of a \$32,250 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is studying possible legislative tools for the development of rural cities or new towns in the state.

Under a program financed 25 percent by the state and 75 percent by the Federal government, state planners are also studying zoning, and the possibilities of using a public-private corporation in the development of new towns. They also expect to conduct a site analysis of one of the 25 locations suggested for new towns in the state.

MARKET VALUE OF FARM LAND IS UP

The average market value of farm real estate per acre on Nov. 1, 1968, was 6 percent above a year earlier and about 3-1/2 percent higher than in March 1968. Regional advances for the year ranged from 2 percent in the Pacific states to 10 percent in the Southeast and Delta. A definite slowing in growth occurred in the Corn Belt. Total market value of farm real estate in November was estimated at \$200.6 billion. Average value per acre was \$184. More detailed facts are available by writing Editor, RAD Newsletter, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 and requesting Farm Real Estate Market Developments, CD-72.

EXTENSION TRAINS NUTRITION AIDES

Striving to improve the quality of rural life as well as the quality of life in the urban areas through an attack on malnutrition, the Cooperative Extension Service plans to have more than 5,000 non-professional food and nutrition aides at work in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by July 1.

Recruited from among local people and trained and supervised by Extension home economists, the aides will make home visits and teach homemakers how to get and use donated foods; how to make the best buys with food stamps; how to budget their money and protect food in storage; how to plan, cook, prepare and serve wholesome meals, and how to improve basic health and sanitation.

Of the 670 geographic areas (counties or cities) included in the initial program, over 470 are in rural America.

FOREST SERVICE AIDS IN SUBURBAN PLAN

The Forest Service now adds the problems of urban sprawl to its dossier of study and service. The town of Nicasio, California and its surrounding valley, for instance, lay right in the path of suburban sprawl from San Francisco, just 20 miles away. Tourist centers and shopping malls were beginning to nibble at Nicasio's boundaries. As a result, the Forest Service, the University of California, and the Marin County Planning Department are working on a cooperative research project to determine how the countryside can absorb the spread of suburbia without being destroyed. What they learn will be a blueprint for orderly development in the valley, and may provide a basis for planned suburban development in other areas of the country.

MISSOURI OBJECTIVE -- STATEWIDE COMMUNITY WATER SERVICES

Missouri is one of the leading states in development of modern, central water systems covering small towns and countryside. Project financing through Farmers Home Administration to date totals \$34.3 million in loans and \$3 million in grants. Rural districts receiving these funds must be unable to secure conventional financing elsewhere. The state ranks third, exceeded only by Texas and Mississippi, in the volume of its rural water program.

As of the first of the year, rural water systems in Missouri had completed and put into operation 114 new water systems, with 32 more under construction, and 17 scheduled for starts in the spring of 1969...a total of 163 projects developed to date, some embracing more than one community. About 25 additional projects were in advanced stages of planning, with prospects for going into construction during fiscal 1970 (July 1969-June 1970).

Approximately 140 additional applications have been rejected because funds would not be available to finance them until after fiscal 1970.



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CASE HISTORIES MAY GUIDE RECREATION DEVELOPERS

A recent study conducted in Ohio by three land development economists, might serve as a guide for the potential investor who is considering developing a commercial recreation enterprise on his rural land. By following five sample recreation ventures through their development phases, the experts provide a realistic review of finance, development, policymaking, and advertising. They also discuss: how much developers charge users; what types of activities complement each other; whether to develop gradually or fully; what safety restrictions to impose; how much money needed for development; what income to expect.

A limited number of copies of the report entitled: "A Look at Commercial Recreation on Small Woodlands in Ohio," NE 101, are available upon request to: Northeastern Forest Experiment Station (Information Services), 6816 Market Street, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania 19082.

NEW RC&D PROJECTS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Three new Resource Conservation and Development Projects were authorized to operate recently in Connecticut, North Carolina, and Nevada.

The North Central Piedmont RC&D Project in North Carolina will help develop a quality environment for an expected 50 percent more citizens to inhabit the area by 1975.

A harmonious balance between future urbanization and the natural environment is the aim of the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Project. The Central Nevada RC&D Project is intended to develop the area's natural resources to improve the economy of the area while protecting and improving the environment.